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ABSTRACT

This manual is designed to teach learners of Deg Xinag, an Athabaskan language, its phonology, grammar, and common expressions. The first chapter details the phonological characteristics, pronunciation rules, and orthography of Deg Xinag. The second chapter lists common expressions, and the third provides six dialogues in Deg Xinag, with word-by-word English translation, and in free English translation. The fourth chapter contains two stories. The fifth provides drills for writing the sounds, words, and word groups and includes suggestions for creating one's own drills. Finally, a list of related publications in Deg Xinag is presented. Each chapter suggests activities to reinforce knowledge and skills. (MSE)

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Deg Xinag Dindlidik
Deg Xinag Literacy Manual

Deg Xinag words and texts
and English translations by
Alta Jerue
Hannah Maillelle

Compiled by
Sharon Hargus
Alice Taff

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Address correspondence to:
Sharon Hargus or Alice Taff
Department of Linguistics GN-40
University of Washington
Seattle WA 98195

Alaska Native Language Center
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Fairbanks, AK 99775-0120

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Contents

Yixighu Xisrigizrididdhinh *(We thank you)* x

Ago Gilegiq Axa Ditr'it'an Ts'in' *(How we use this book)* xi

Introduction xii

Deg Xinag Dindlidik *(Deg Xinag is written)* 1
Godadz Ditr'i'ne Tux *(We say it this way)* . . . 1
Suggested activities . . . 1
Consonants . . . 1
Vowels . . . 3
Consonants . . . 3
Examples of each consonant . . . 5
Suggested activities . . . 5
' . . . 5
ch . . . 5
ch' . . . 5
d . . . 6
ddh . . . 6
dh . . . 6
dl . . . 6
dr . . . 6
dz . . . 7
g . . . 7
gg . . . 7
gh . . . 7
h . . . 8
j . . . 8
k . . . 8
k' . . . 8
l . . . 8
ł . . . 9
m . . . 9
m' . . . 9
n . . . 9

n' . . . 10
nh . . . 10
ng . . . 10
ngh . . . 10
ng' . . . 11
p . . . 11
q . . . 11
q' . . . 11
s . . . 11
sh . . . 12
sr . . . 12
t . . . 12
t' . . . 12
th . . . 13
tl . . . 13
tl' . . . 13
tr . . . 13
tr' . . . 13
ts . . . 14
ts' . . . 14
tth . . . 14
tth' . . . 14
v . . . 14
x . . . 15
. . . 15
y' . . . 15
yh . . . 15
z . . . 15
zr . . . 16
Imk'i Niłq'i Didit'anh *([Consonants] that are almost the same)* 16
Suggested activities . . . 16
Ø and gh . . . 16
Ø and y . . . 17
Ø and ' . . . 17
ddh and dh . . . 17
dl and l . . . 18
tl and ɬ . . . 18

dr and zr 18
tr and sr 18
gg and gh 18
q and x 19
d, t, and t' 19
n and nh 19
th and tth 19
n and n' 20
ddh, tth, and tth' 20
th and dh 20
dz, ts, and ts' 20
dl, tl, and tl' 21
dr, tr, and tr' 21
sr and zr 22
ch and ch' 22
y and yh 22
g and k 22
ng and ngh 22
ng and ng' 23
gh and x 23
gg, q, and q' 23
v and dh 24
n and ng 24
d and ddh 24
t and tth 24
t' and tth' 25
th and s 25
th and ɬ 25
s, sr, and sh 25
g and gg 26
k and q 26
k' and q' 26
x and h 27
Vowels 27
Examples of each vowel 27
Suggested activities 27
a 27

e 28
o 28
i 28
u 29
uy, uyh, uy' 30
Imk'i Niłq'i Didit'anh *([Vowels] that are almost alike)* 30
Suggested activities 30
a and o 31
i and u 31
o and i 31
i and a 31
u and o 32
e and i 32
Use of hyphen 33
tl' and tl-' 33
ng and n-g 33

Xinag Ilt'e Vaxa Tr'ixinay *(Language we speak every day)* **35**
Suggested Activities 35
Common Expressions 35

Notin Niłiyił Xixedayh *(Two people talk together)* **39**
Suggested Activities 39
Q'on-giditlqon' *(I'm sewing)* 39
Gits'i'in Xitodił *(They're going to go hunting)* 41
Ttheting Xiyet T'ixet'a Ts'i *(Weather)* 43
Gag xitr'athdatl *(We went for berries)* 44
Deg Xinag Xitr'inili'an' Ts'in' *(We tried to learn Deg Xinag)* 47
Toł *(Tea)* 49

Xidhoy *(Stories)* **51**
Suggested activities 51
Notin Idiq'ixolnek Hin*(The two people who found themselves)* . . . 51
Q'idighidhilinh Axa Nixudhidhit Ts'in' *(What happened to the young man)* 67

Xinag Xidiniłdik Ts'i Xiq'a Gitr'oxili'an' *(They try to write Deg Xinag)* **85**
Spelling drills for individual sounds 85
Keeping track of errors 87
How to make your own drills 88
Whole word drills 88
Word group drills 88
For speakers of Deg Xinag 89

Deg Xinag Vitux Xodal *(Books in Deg Xinag)* **91**
Publications of the Alaska Native Language Center 91
Publications of the Iditarod Area School District 91
Anthropology 93
History 93

List of Figures

1 Hannah Maillelle and Alta Jerue. *Drawing by Siri G. Tuttle from a photo by Alice Taff.* xiii
2 Where in the mouth or throat the Deg Xinag consonants are made 4

Yixighu Xisrigizrididdhinh *(We thank you)*

Tape 1, side A, begins here.

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Ago Gilegiq Axa Ditr'it'an Ts'in' *(How we use this book)*

Some people using this book will be speakers of Deg Xinag who want to learn how to read and write their language. Others want to learn how to speak. Still others understand Deg Xinag and want to learn how to talk as well as read and write. We have tried to provide something here for each type of user.

There are two tapes which accompany this book. There are marginal notes in the book which tell you where each side of the tape begins and ends. Also, the beginning of each side of the tape tells you which page in the text you should turn to. If the tape player you will be using most often has a counter, it will save you a lot of time later if you put the tape in the player, reset the counter to 000, and then mark the counter number in the table of contents at least at the beginning of each section. Do this for each side of the tape. Later if you want to skip around to different parts on the tapes, you will know where to find the part you want.

You don't have to go through this book and the accompanying tapes in any particular order. The book starts with the smallest pieces of language, the individual sounds, and works up to the largest pieces, long stories. If you don't speak Deg Xinag yet, you may want to start at the end of the book and listen to the stories and conversations just to hear the sounds of the language working together. Later you can go to the front of the book and see how the sounds are written. If you are a speaker you may want to start at the end to hear some good stories! Maybe you first want to learn how to say some useful words in Deg Xinag. You should start with the common expressions. You may want to skip from section to section or you may want to work from the beginning to the end.

Most of the sections of this book contain **Suggested activities** for reading, writing, listening, or speaking practice. You pick out the ones that serve your purpose and make up activities of your own. There are some additional ideas for writing practice in a separate section towards the end of this book.

Introduction

The words **Deg Xinag** which appear in the title of this book are translated 'this language'. This name appears in one earlier publication on the language, in the title of the 1977 noun dictionary prepared by Jim Kari (see bibliography).

Other names for the language that have been used in the past are **Deg Hit'an**, which appears on the 1982 ANLC map, and Ingalik, used by Osgood (see bibliography). **Deg Hit'an** means 'people of this area'. Ingalik is an Eskimo-origin word that speakers of the language prefer not to use.

Alta Jerue has suggested that **Deg Xinag** is the best name for the language as it refers more specifically to the language than does **Deg Hit'an**.

Currently there are about 20–30 fluent speakers of Deg Xinag. Most Deg Xinag speakers are elders who live in the communities of Shageluk, Anvik, and Grayling (near the Yukon-Innoko R. confluence), all speaking the Yukon dialect of Deg Xinag. In earlier times, there were also speakers of a Kuskokwim dialect of Deg Xinag, but there are only a very few speakers of the Kuskokwim dialect. Some speakers of the Yukon dialect of Deg Xinag now live in cities like Fairbanks and Anchorage.

Figure 1: Hannah Maillelle and Alta Jerue. *Drawing by Siri G. Tuttle from a photo by Alice Taff.*

Deg Xinag Dindlidik *(Deg Xinag is written)*

This section of the book shows how the sounds of Deg Xinag can be written. Later we provide examples of sounds that are almost alike and the way in which they're written.

Godadz Ditr'i'ne Tux *(We say it this way)*

As an overview, one example of each of the Deg Xinag consonants and vowels is provided. Each example is pronounced twice, once by Alta and once by Hannah, usually in that order.

Suggested activities

Listening and reading Listen to the tape as you read each word silently.
Listening and speaking Stop the tape after the first speaker, try to say the word, and then listen to the second speaker to hear the word again.

Consonants

Consonants are sounds which are made with the airstream pretty much closed off somewhere in the mouth or throat.

Although some Deg Xinag consonants are spelled with more than one letter, such as **sr**, **gh**, **q'**, they represent single sounds.

'	si'ot	*my wife*
ch	**ch**onh	*rain*
ch'	gi**ch'**uq	*quill*
d	**d**ina	*man, person*
ddh	ta**ddh**inh	*old man*
dh	gi**dh**ith	*skin*
dl	di**dl**ang	*spruce*
dr	**dr**anh	*day*
dz	**dz**ax	*pitch*
g	**g**ag	*berry*
gg	**gg**ux	*rabbit*

gh	si**gh**e'	*my tooth*
h	gini**h**a	*he, she is picking (berries)*
j	na**lj**it	*he, she is scared*
k	di**k**etth	*it's soft*
k'	imo **k**'o'	*medicine*
l	si**l**o'	*my hand*
ł	**ł**eq	*fish*
m	si**m**aq	*my eye*
m'	vandalzi**m'**	*he, she is going by fast*
n	si**n**aq'at	*my eye socket*
nh	vo**nh**	*his, her mother*
n'	ya**n'**	*only, just*
ng	**ng**an'	*land*
ngh	neli**ngh**	*it's flowing*
ng'	gitthi**ng'**	*meat*
p	ch'i**p** ney	*northern waterthrush*
q	**q**ay	*village*
q'	**q'**o'	*arrow*
s	**s**e	*I, me*
sh	**sh**axil	*sugar*
sr	**sr**esr	*sheefish*
t	**t**inh	*ice*
t'	**t'**asr	*charcoal*
th	**th**oyh	*sand*
tl	ithi**tl**it	*it overcooked*
tl'	**tl'**eł	*rope*
tr	**tr**itr	*dry wood, stick*
tr'	deg **tr'**a'	*local woman*
ts	**ts**odlig	*tree squirrel*
ts'	**ts'**ivi il	*spruce bough*
tth	si**tth**e'	*my head*
tth'	**tth'**ok	*plate*
v	**v**ats	*seagull*
x	Deg **X**inag	*the language of the Deg Xit'an*
y	**y**o	*sky*
yh	o**yh**	*snowshoes*

y'	dilighiy'	*it (frog) is croaking*
z	dimzeg	*summer (brown) rabbit*
zr	ngizrenh	*it's good*

Vowels

Vowels are sounds made without a lot of closure in the mouth or throat.

a	giqan'	*lodge*
e	q'en'	*roe*
i	viqing'	*her husband*
o	qon'	*thread*
u	qun'	*fire*

Consonants

Figure 2 is a cross section of the human head showing where in the mouth or throat each of the Deg Xinag consonant sounds is made. Some of the sounds are made with vibration of the vocal cords, called voicing, and some without. To feel the difference, put your fingers on your throat at your Adam's apple. Say *sss, zzz, sss, zzz.* You feel a buzzing when you say *zzz* but not when you say *sss. zzz* is a voiced sound, while *sss* is voiceless. The rows of letters in Figure 2 are marked voiced or voiceless as is appropriate.

The letters in Figure 2 which are in boldface (darker) are the sounds which occur in Deg Xinag but not English, or only occur in English in certain combinations of words. You should be aware that some of the sounds which we have indicated occur in English as well as Deg Xinag may occur in different places in the word in Deg Xinag than you are used to seeing them in English.

Some of the Deg Xinag consonants can be found anywhere in a word but some are only found in certain places. Most of the consonants listed above can occur at the beginning of a word. However, the following do not occur at the beginning of a word: **p m' nh n' ngh ngh' yh y'**. Some of the consonants listed above also do not occur at the end of a word: **t' tth' ts' tl' tr' j ch ch' k' q' h**.

voiced		**ddh**	d	dz	**dl**	dr	j	g	**gg**	
voiceless	p	**tth**	t	ts	**tl**	tr	ch	k	**q**	
voiceless		**tth'**	t'	ts'	**tl'**	tr'	**ch'**	**k'**	**q'**	'
voiced	v	dh		z	l	**zr**			**gh**	
voiceless		th		s	**ł**	**sr**	sh		**x**	h
voiced	m		n				y	ng		
voiceless	**m'**		**n'**				**y'**	**ng'**		
voiceless			**nh**				**yh**	**ngh**		

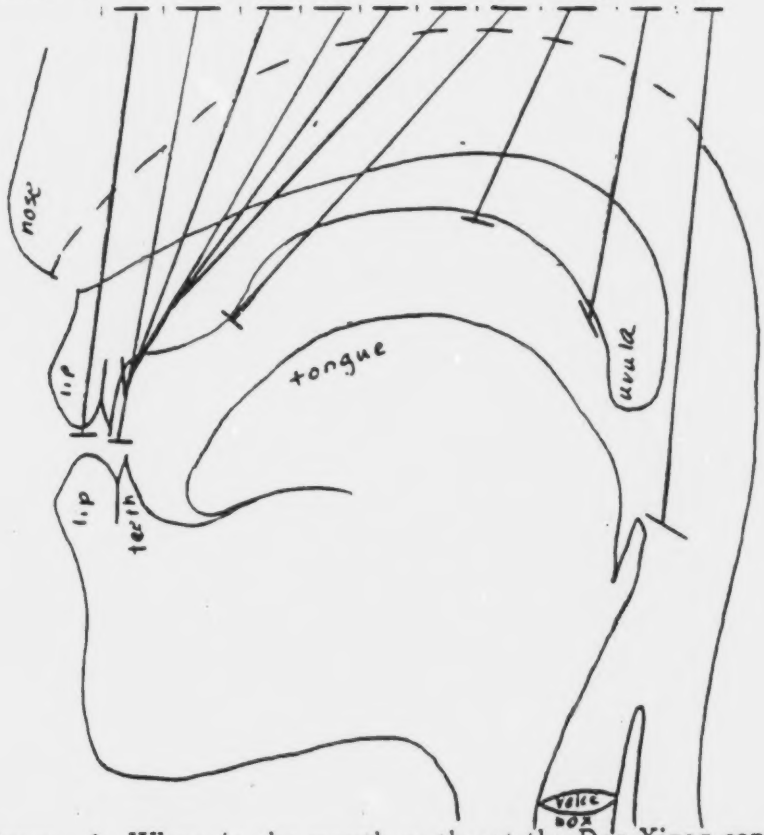

Figure 1: Where in the mouth or throat the Deg Xinag consonants are made

Examples of each consonant

This section explains how to make each sound and gives more examples for each sound. The examples show the sound at the beginning, middle and end of words when possible.

Suggested activities

Listening and reading Listen to the tape as you read each word silently.
Listening and speaking Stop the tape after the first speaker, try to say the word, and then listen to the second speaker to hear the word again.
Reading, speaking, and listening Read the word aloud before listening. Then listen to the tape to see how close you got.

' The apostrophe represents the sound called glottal stop. This is the sound usually spelled with a hyphen in the English word *uh-oh*. This letter is not written at the beginning of a word in Deg Xinag.

no'oy *sun*
nał'al *raft*
ma' *milk*
noya' *beaver*

ch This is like English **ch** in *chain*.

chenh *again*
gi**ch**a' *animal tail*
gi**ch**al *fish tail*

ch' This sound is a combination of **ch** and '.

dił **ch'**eddh *vein*
di**ch'**it *it's tough, difficult*
q'eyh **ch'**il *torn off birchbark*

d This is like the English **d** in *dog*.

ngi**d**oth	*it's heavy*
so**d**a	*my older sister*
ts'i**d**	*blanket*
ts'egi**d**	*dust*

ddh This sound is like the combination of sounds in the English phrase *said the*, but in Deg Xinag it is pronounced as a single sound.

ngi**ddh**ogg (Alta)	*he, she is lightweight*
ngi**ddh**oq (Hannah)	
xisrigidis**ddh**inh	*I'm thankful*
si'o**ddh**	*my hip*
siti**ddh**	*my cane*

dh This is like the English **th** in *this, the,* and *either*.

si**dh**ot	*my mouth*
vi**dh**an	*back of his, her neck*
vichinga**dh**	*muskrat*

dl This is like the sequence **dl** in English *bundle*.

dlen	*mouse*
dlot	*algae, green scum on water*
nołchi**dl**	*bag*
vichi**dl**	*his, her younger brother*

dr This is like the **dr** in English *drum*.

xath**dr**it	*they're lying down*
xigił**dr**ayh	*it's flashing*
sida**dr**	*my younger sister*
dił va**dr**	*blood soup*

dz This is like the English sound at the end of the word *adds*.

gino**dz**ets	*bumblebee*
ga**łdz**is	*he, she dances a funeral dance*
gidingi**dz**	*grass*
nda**dz**	*how*

g This is like the English **g** in *game*. Before **e** or **i** in Deg Xinag, it is similar to the English **g** in *argue*.

gisr	*mittens*
li**g**imith	*it's round*
nodo**g**	*lynx*
vidha**g**	*his or her corpse*

gg This is like English **g** but further back in the mouth. It has no exact equivalent in English.

ggath	*king salmon*
gi**gg**etl	*skin scrapings*
totriłqo**gg**	*swamp*
siq'onh to**gg**	*my upper back*

gh Make this sound in the same place as **gg** but keep air going through. English does not have this sound.

gił**gh**ex	*he, she snores*
t'i**gh**ith	*cottonwood*
Vinginh Gila**gh**	*July*
niłya**gh**	*blueberries*

h This is like the English **h** as in *hug*.

geno**h**a	*he, she will pick (berries)*
gideg eno**h**ił	*he she will camp out*
soqo xito**h**ał	*he, she will call for me*

j This is like English **j** as in *joke*.

siyił xidi**j**ał	*I'm busy*
ethok **j**ingidh	*deep pot*

k This is like the English **k** as in *kind*. Before Deg English **e** or **i**, it is similar to the English **c** in *cute*.

ke	*dirty!*
kula	*poor thing*
tałtli**k**	*jump (forward)*
da**k**	*parka*

k' This is a combination of k and '.

te **k'**o'	*waterproof boots*
gił**k'**ats	*he, she dances (Eskimo style)*

l This is like the English **l** as in *long*.

lighanh	*he, she is fat*
gilek	*song*
chel	*boy*
viqul	*it's gone*

ł Get your tongue ready for **l** but do not use your voice. Just blow air through the space at the side or sides of your tongue. Some people call this letter "slash l" and others call it "barred l".

łit	*smoke*
łats	*mud, dirt*
dił	*blood*
tił	*socks*

m This is like the English **m** as in *mask*.

imo	*pain*
te dilch'imiq	*it's making a plunking noise in the water*
tron' dim	*brown fly, dung fly*
ggałtim	*inner willow bark, cambium*

m' This is a combination of **m** and **'**.

dina'andidlizim'	*we went by fast*

[1]

n This is like the English **n** as in *nose*.

[1]In verbs like this, the prefixes **dh**-perfective and **l**-classifier combine with each other to change to a sequence which is written **dli**- in this book. The same sequence appears in the word **Din*dli*dik** in the title of this book. In earlier ANLC publications (see bibliography), this sequence is written **tl'i**-. The glottalization in this prefix sequence is not as strong as for stem-initial **tl'**, and is frequently absent altogether.

ne	*island*
noya'	*beaver*
siggo**n**	*my arm*
sitl'o**n**	*my lap*

n' This is a combination of **n** and '.

tthe**n'**	*star*
git'o**n'**	*leaf*
vits'i**n'**	*to him, her*

nh This sound, like English **n**, comes through the nose, but **nh** has an additional snort of air at the end.

ngi**nh**	*you*
ve**nh**dida'	*tomorrow*
sa**nh**ch'it	*my nostril*

ng This is like the English **ng** as in *song*.

ngingath	*it's long*
da**ng**an	*iron, steel*
nela**ng**	*meat*
ggagg zri**ng**	*scoter, black duck*

ngh This sound, like English **ng**, comes through the nose, but **ngh** has an additional snort of air at the end.

lo**ngh**	*many, lots*
gił**ding**h	*he, she is good at things, knows how*

ng' This is a combination of **ng** and '.

gitthi**ng'**	*meat*
nagg**ing'**	*it's lukewarm*
gila**ng'**	*its beaver castor*
viłałti**ng'** (Alta)	*he, she is asleep*
viłałtingh (Hannah)	

p This is like the English **p** in *pin*. This sound is very rare and has been found in only one word so far.

ch'i**p** ney *northern waterthrush*

q The nearest equivalent in English is **k**, but in Deg Xinag the tongue touches the roof of the mouth further towards the throat.

qatrith	*moccasins*
no**q**oggiy	*rock*
jiloni**q**	*salt fish*
gidistth'i**q**	*I hear, understand*

q' This is a combination of **q** and '.

q'isr	*alder*
vi**q'**a'	*its edge, blade*
vi**q'**at	*I want it*

s This is like the **s** in English *see*.

sit	*scar*
sanh	*summer*
ges	*simple, so-called*
ggisggingh	*grass fish basket*

sh This is like the English **sh** as in *shoe*.

shinh qogg	*flat, tundra*
gas**h**igh xit'an	*white people*
das**h**quyh	*three-cornered needle*

sr This is similar to the **sr** sounds in English between the words *fence rail*.

es**r**e'	*I don't know*
srel	*stick dance*
sraqay	*children*
xu**sr**	*thorn*
ngan' ghi**sr**	*bump, lump in ground*

t This is like the English **t** as in *tool*.

si**t**o'	*my father*
dhi**t**anh	*he, she is lying down*
ł**e**t	*scab*
ene**t**	*behind, in the back, upstream*

t' This is a combination of **t** and '.

dhi**t'**a	*it's fried*
do**t'**ol	*moon*
tr'o**t'**ix	*it's no good*

th This is like the English **th** in *thing*, *thin*, and *ether*.

e**th**ok	*pot*
gi**th**on ts'in'	*he, she doesn't eat*
niltre**th**	*wolverine*
lingi**th**	*buck brush, dwarf birch*

tl This is a combination of **t** and **l**.

tlagg	*bum, no good*
dindi**tl**ets	*they're overripe, soft (fruit)*
sringi**tl**	*moss*
tr'i**tl**	*willow*

tl' This is a combination of **tl** and '.

dithi**tl'**its	*it's black*
ngi**tl'**itth	*he, she is strong*
da**tl'**ezr	*thrush, bell robin, fancy robin*

tr This is like the **tr** in English *tree*.

tra**tt**h'et	*kashim*
i**tr**ix	*he, she cries*
li**tr**	*urine*
ditr'e**tr**	*it's chapped*

tr' This is a combination of **tr** and '.

tr'inay	*loneliness*
tr'an	*old woman*
ezre **tr'**al	*not so cold, warm spell*

ts This is like the English **ts** in *hats*.

si**ts**e	*my grandmother*
gidhitl**ts**enh	*I made it; bingo!*
sits'i**ts**	*my elbow*
q'u**ts**	*whetstone, file*

ts' This is a combination of **ts** and '.

de**ts'**eg	*snuff, chewing tobacco*
di**ts'**in	*goose*
ts'ix	*hat*

tth This is like the **tth** sound that ends the English word *hundredth*.[2]

vi**tth**a'	*his daughter*
ye**tth**it	*it's barking*
ngitl'i**tth**	*he, she is strong*
chi**tth**	*moulting duck, goose*

tth' This is a combination of **tth** and '.

tth'inh	*bone*
tth'e	*still, not yet*
silo**tth'**iq	*my index finger*

v This is like the English **v** as in *very*.

valggats	*boat*
galva**n**	*pocket*
vav	*Native food*

[2]Don't worry about the English spelling of this word. The end of it sounds like **tth**.

x Get your tongue ready for **q** but keep the air going through the space between your tongue and the roof of your mouth.

xa	*grease*
xot	*slowly*
ggex	*worms*
srixno'	*creek*

y This is like the English **y** as in *you*.

yix	*house*
neyo	*he, she came, arrived*
nalay	*dog salmon*
deloy	*mountain*

y' This is a combination of **y** and **'**. This is rare.

dilighiy'	*it (frog) is croaking*
giliq'uy'	*Hudson Bay tea*

yh This is like the **y** in English you but with an extra puff of air at the end. It's also similar to the **h** of English in the word *hue*, but in Deg Xinag, this sound only occurs at the end of a word or syllable.

tr'ey**h**	*canoe*
ni'igiyiy**h**	*I am resting*
gił**z**ray**h**	*he, she is carving it*
yoqoy**h**	*Northern lights*

z This is like the English **z** as in *zipper*.

dimzeg	*summer (brown) rabbit*
gełdzi**z** ts'in'	*he, she didn't dance a funeral dance*
vaxa giditse**z**	*wooden mallet for mashing eels*
tth'e yitlcho**z** ts'in'	*he, she hasn't rendered it*

zr For some speakers, this is similar to the **zr** sequence between the words *nose ring*. (Don't worry about the English spelling, just think of the sounds.) For other speakers, this is similar to English **r** in *rose*.

i**zr**ił	*he, she shouts*
si**zr**ik	*my body*
viyo**zr**	*her son*
ghi**zr**	*whitefish guts*

Imk'i Niłq'i Didit'anh *([Consonants] that are almost the same)*

Before going on to the vowels, here are some examples of consonants that sound almost alike.

Suggested activities **Listening and reading** Listen to each word as you read it silently, trying to hear the difference in the pair of sounds that are almost alike.

Listening and speaking Stop the tape after the first speaker, try to say the word, and then listen to the second speaker to hear the word again.

Ø and gh

ngo	*well*
ngo**gh**	*near you*
seda	*my (man's) male cousin*
nda**gh**	*where*
ne	*island*
ene**gh**	*behind*

Ø and y

sits'i	*from me*
sitsi**y**	*my grandfather*
tili	*squirrel*
ili**y**	*dangerous*
vitthe**y**	*his, her grandchild*
gitthezri**gh**	*messy hair*

Ø and '

vigha	*her brother-in-law*
vigha'	*its grease*
ngitthe	*downhill, towards water*
ngitthe'	*your head*
dina	*person, man*
dina'	*doll*

ddh and dh

git'o**ddh**	*scraps*
vaxa gidit'o**dh**	*saw*

dl and l

q'o'i**l**iggoyh	*he, she is running around*
q'o'i**dl**iggog ts'in'	*he, she isn't running around*

tl and ɬ

yi**ɬ**'isr	*he, she is sneezing*
yi**tl**-'isr	*I'm sneezing*
q'on-gidi**ɬ**qon'	*he, she is sewing*
q'on-gidi**tl**qon'	*I'm sewing*

dr and zr

gho**ɬdr**i**ɬ**	*he, she paddles fast*
gi**ɬzr**i**ɬ**	*he, she blows a whistle*

tr and sr

ne'enas**tr**i**ɬ**	*I'll break it down*
sri**ɬ**	*steam, vapor*

gg and gh

vi**gg**izr	*cork line, top line on fishnet*
vi**gh**izr	*its (whitefish) guts*
ggath	*king salmon*
i**gh**ath	*he, she itches*

q and x

tasqaɬ	*I'll paddle*
xaɬ	*pack (loaded)*
qiyh	*vomit*
xiyh	*winter*

d, t, and t'

dasr	*sandbar*
t'asr	*charcoal*
giɬt'uq	*he, she is rowing*
aɬduq	*it's cramping*
viyet	*his, her insides*
viyed	*canoe*
gitoqat	*he, she will buy something*
gidiqad	*store*

n and nh

dichin	*stem, stump*
dichinh	*coffin*
anh	*that person*
an	*those people*

th and tth

gitithel ts'in'	*he, she won't eat*
gitthel	*something's tongue*

n and n'

tr'a'adit'o**n** (Hannah)	*it is thin*
tr'i'adit'o**n** (Alta)	
git'o**n'**	*leaf*

ddh, tth, and tth'

dałdi**tth**	*it is shivering*
dałdi**ddh**	*horned grebe*
tthetth	*hot coals*
gił**tth'**eth	*he, she is sucking*

th and dh

gidhi**th**	*its skin, hide*
vidhi**dh**	*his, her belt*
yin-gidighiłche**th**	*he, she put (cloth) on it*
vaxa xiq'igidałchi**dh**	*bandage*

dz, ts, and ts'

dzidze	*devil*
gił**ts**e	*he, she is making something*
vi**ts'**igh	*his, her hat*
vi**dz**igh	*his, her ear*
gi**ts'**eg	*guts*
gidi**ts**eg	*moose calf*

qun' **tseg**	*spark*
xił**ts'**eg	*nettle*
xi**tset**	*he, she is sweeping*
xi**ts'**et	*he, she is lying, not telling the truth*
ts'ix	*hat*
dzix gingedh (Alta)	*kangaroo mouse*
dzix gingeddh (Hannah)	
sik'o**ts'idz**	*away from me*
si**dz**its	*my fist*

dl, tl, and tl'

dlen	*mouse*
dithi**tl'**en	*cloth*
yiniłt**l**it	*he, she is overcooking it*
didli**tl'**it	*he, she farted*

dr, tr, and tr'

va**tr**	*quartz, crystal*
siva**dr**	*my aunt (father's sister), mother-in-law*
giłva**tr**	*he, she is stewing, boiling it*
viyił giva**dr**	*onion*
dred	*barely*
tr'edhat	*just like*
niłtreth	*wolverine*
xath**dr**it	*they're lying down*
xiyi**tr'**it	*they're scratching it*

viyetr *his, her breath, life*
dran nedr *afternoon*

ditr'etr *it's chapped*
tr'idotr'edr *front deck of boat*

sr and zr

srisr *black bear*
gizrisr *he, she is drinking*

ezre *cold*
esre' *I don't know*

dithiq'izr *it's red, red thing*
dithiq'isr *it's red*

ch and ch'

ch'ux *quill*
chux *big*

y and yh

yiłzreyh *he, she is taking them*
vaxa dinayeg alzrey *camera*

g and k

vileg *his, her dog*
gilek *song*

ng and ngh

dhigging *dry meat, fish*
dhiggingh *it's dried out*

ng and ng'

giti**ng**	*tracks*
giti**ng'**	*handle*

gh and x

vitl'o**gh**	*his, her palm*
viqatl'o**x**	*its bottom, underside*
gan-gi'o**x**	*he, she is ironing*
vaxa gan-git'o**gh**	*iron*
ginił**t**lu**x**	*he, she is painting*
vaxa ginał**t**lu**gh**	*paint, paintbrush*

gg, q, and q'

dili**gg**aq	*it is cawing*
dili**q**aq	*he, she is coughing while choking*
ditthe' etth'i**q**	*he, she is combing his, her own hair*
vitthe' etth'i**gg** (Alta)	*comb*
vitthe' etth'i**q** (Hannah)	
nili**gg**uy	*bead*
tili**q**uy	*fish spear*
qul	*gone*
q'ul	*white*
quth	*cough*
q'uth	*cloud*
q'agh	*back, reverse*
deloy **q**agh	*at the foot of the mountains*

giggizr *top line on fishnet*
q'izr *red*

Tape 1, side A, ends here.

ggux *rabbit*
gi**q'**ux *fat*

Tape 1, side B, begins here.

v and dh

yi**dh**ał *he, she is yawning*
ghi**v**ał *he, she is swimming*

di**l**i**v**aq *it (fox) is barking*
vi**dh**agg *his, her throat*

n and ng

gi**n**an' *its face*
ngan' *land*

ngił *wedge*
ni**l**iyił *with each other, together*

yi**ge**n**ge**sr *he, she is plucking many*
si**n**esri**n** *my waist*

d and ddh

ta**dh**daq *it vanished, disappeared*
gag **ddh**oq *mountain bearberry*

t and tth

tingił *bucket*
tthingił *axe*

ta**ł**	*mat*
ttha**ł**	*steambath*
di**t**ik	*it's hard*
di**tth**ik	*entire, whole*

t' and tth'

gididli**t'**iq	*it dripped*
silo**tth'**iq	*my index finger*
tr'o**t'**ix	*he, she is no good*
tr'i**tth'**ix	*we're coiling it*

th and s

sith	*hill*
thith	*belt*

th and ł

vi**ł**	*sleep*
vi**th**	*bank*
xiq'i da**th**tonh	*a stick is on it*
xiq'i da**ł**tonh	*you leave a stick on it*

s, sr, and sh

sinox deddh (Alta)	*my eyelash*
sinox ded (Hannah)	
srixno'	*creek*
shinox gag	*bunchberry*

sadinh	*without me*
sraqay	*children*
shaxil	*sugar*

g and gg

sile**g**	*my dog*
sigile**gg**	*my fish*
ga**g**	*berry*
gga**gg**	*animal*
gi**gg**izr	*top line, cork line*
vi**g**izr	*his, her mittens*
tux**g**aq	*pipe*
dili**gg**aq	*it caws*
vidha**gg**	*his, her throat*
vidha**g**	*his, her dead body*

k and q

di**k**etth	*it's soft*
yanxidi**q**eyh	*they vomited*

k' and q'

yix xi**k'**idz	*small house*
yix xi**q'**idz	*on top of the house*
gi**ɬk'**ats	*he, she dances, eskimo style*
ni**ɬq'**adz	*double-sided*
de**q'**onh	*it's burned*
ngi**k'**odz	*away from, against you*

x and h

xił	*evening*
gidegh ni**h**ił	*he, she is camping out*
xeledz	*well, good*
gito**h**el	*he, she will eat*
xiyh	*winter*
hiy	*it*
xot	*slowly*
ho	*yes*
ay'ot **h**in	*those people*
xin	*river*

Vowels

Examples of each vowel

This section explains how to make each vowel sound and gives several examples for each one.

Suggested activities
Listening and reading Listen to the tape as you read each word silently.
Listening and speaking Stop the tape after the first speaker, try to say the word, and then listen to the second speaker to hear the word again.
Reading, speaking, and listening Read the word aloud before listening. Then listen to the tape to see how close you got.

a This sounds like the English **a** in *father* or *spa*.

gich**a**gg	*mouth (of a river, slough)*
antr'**a**	*just like*

e This is close to the sound of *e* in the English word *tent*.

e	*yes; you're welcome*
q'ave**ł**	*snare*
dred	*barely*

o This is close to the English letter **o** in *boat*.

sidrod	*my foreleg, shinbone*
tr'ot	*love, affection*
noy	*war*

i Before **ng**, **y**, or **yh**, Deg Xinag **i** sounds like the English **i** in *ski*:

isg**i**ngisr	*I'm ticklish*
q'**i**ngitl	*sap*
gidh**i**yh	*loche*
dina t**i**yh	*old man, elder*
v**i**yan'	*no*
ni**ł**t**i**y	*crane*
x**i**y**i**zrisr	*they are sipping it*

Before **q**, **q'**, **gh**, **gg**, and **x** (the sounds in the very back of the mouth, known as uvular sounds), Deg Xinag **i** sounds like the **i** in **accident**. If you say accident naturally, the **i** sounds like **uh**:

y**i**x	*house*
vanhg**i**q	*Indian ice cream*
y**i**toyigg (Alta)	*right away, soon*
y**i**toy**i**q (Hannah)	
t'**i**ghith	*cottonwood*
ch**i**ghiligguy	*fox*

Elsewhere, **i** sounds like the **i** sounds in English *visit*.

vil	*sleep*
xith	*pus*
litl'isr	*raw meat*
istl'i	*I'm small*

u This vowel generally occurs only before or after the uvulars **gg**, **q**, **q'**, **x**, **gh**.

After a uvular, **u** sounds like the Deg Xinag vowel **i** does when it's next to a uvular, but with **u**, the lips are rounded in pronouncing the uvular.

ghiligguk	*he, she is running around*
yiggut	*he, she is stabbing it (once)*
qunedz	*by the fire*
yiq'utr	*he, she is chewing it up*
xutl	*sled*
xusr	*thorn*
xighusr	*foam*
sighun'	*near me*

Before a uvular, **u** is pronounced like Deg Xinag **i** but the lips are rounded throughout the vowel and the following uvular.

vaxa galt'ugg	*oar*
yith ndlidugg	*hailstone*
nidhitltuq	*I rolled it up*
nigidluq	*he, she is laughing*
yith tluxgi	*sleet, wet snow*
tthuxdi	*alone*

Here are some examples of **u** before and after a uvular:

xigguq	*snowbird*
giq'ux	*fat*
ghux	*snowshoe webbing, lacing; he, she is lacing*
gits'an-giditlghux	*he, she turned around (by sled)*

uy, uyh, uy' Deg Xinag **quy** sounds like the **quee** in *queen*. Similarly, **gguy**, **q'uy**, **xuy**, **ghuy** are like **ggu+iy**, etc.

vaxa giliquy	*stone adze, carving adze*
gguyh	*hard wood*
xuyh	*root*
giliq'uy'	*Hudson's Bay tea*

In a very few words, this vowel occurs before or after **k**. In this case it is pronounced more like the **u** in *Ruth*:

yuk	*the end, that's all*
kula	*poor thing*
kusgi	*bobtail weasel*

Imk'i Niłq'i Didit'anh *([Vowels] that are almost alike)*

These are words containing vowels that sound almost the same.

Suggested activities
Listening and reading Listen to each word as you read it silently, trying to hear the difference in the pair of sounds that are almost alike.
Listening and speaking Stop the tape after the first speaker, try to say the word, and then listen to the second speaker to hear the word again.

a and o

vaxa	*with it*
voxo	*for him, her, on his, her behalf*

i and u

xiyh	*winter*
xuyh	*roots*
viq'idh	*his, her side*
viq'uth	*his, her neck*

o and i

srosr	*drum*
srisr	*black bear*

i and a

vaxa gididzagh	*table knife*
nigidzigh	*owl*
tax	*in the water*
tixvel	*fishnet*
tthitidlich'ax	*he, she left mad*
tthitolch'ix	*he, she will leave mad*
tinh edax	*ice is flowing*
tinh todix	*ice will flow*
gashigh	*white (person)*
nilyagh	*blueberries*
nixoldigh	*ground bugs (ones that don't fly)*
ndagh	*where*

u and o

siq'**u**y *my aunt*
siq'**o**y *my crotch*

q'**o**th *quiver; exercise*
q'**u**th *cloud*

a**ɬ**du**q** *it's cramping*
vidogg *on its top*

tthi**ɬ**t'ogg *top of head, tree*
gi**ɬ**t'u**q** *he, she is rowing*

tl'**u**x *lake grass*
viqatl'ogh *its bottom, underside*

ghilu**q** *poor thing*
diyeloq *he, she did it*

git'**u**q *nest*
vit'ox *under it*

gidhux *he, she is scraping*
yigedhox *he, she is scraping many*

e and i

q'**e**yh *birch*
q**i**yh *vomit*

gitl'**i**ts *its (fish) kidney*
tl'ets *mold*

ge**h**onh	*you're eating*
gi**h**onh	*he, she is eating*
dhedo	*you're sitting*
dhido	*he, she is sitting*

Use of hyphen

The hyphen is used in Deg Xinag to separate two letters that usually represent one sound but in two cases do not.

tl' and tl-'

gidi**tl'**e	*he, she is knitting*
ni**tl-'**el (ts'in')	*I didn't see it*

ng and n-g

xi**ng**o	*during*
xi**n-g**ilqut	*he, she patched it*
de**n-g**i	*money*

Xinag Ilt'e Vaxa Tr'ixinay *(Language we speak every day)*

Tape 1, middle of side B, continues here.

This section contains common Deg Xinag expressions. We have included it here mainly to give non-speakers some useful things to say in Deg Xinag. Both English and Deg Xinag are recorded here, the English once and the Deg Xinag twice.

Unless otherwise indicated, the commands and references to 'you' generally refer to exactly one person. (In Deg Xinag, unlike English, most of the forms would be different if talking to two or more persons.)

Suggested Activities

Listening and speaking Listen to the tape as you ride in your car, knit, ski, or run. Practice saying the expressions with the tape.
Speaking If you repeat a word 30 times, you won't forget it, they say. Count off 30 times as you repeat a word or phrase.

Speaking Pick out one expression each day and practice it to yourself all day as you go about your work. See if you remember it the next day.
Speaking Use the expression with your children, an adult who wants to learn or a speaker of Deg Xinag.
Speaking Make a check mark each day next to the ones you remember. When you have ten checks next to an expression, you probably know it.
Translating Cover the Deg Xinag list and see if you can say the Deg Xinag by looking at the English. Cover the English and do the same.

Common Expressions

ade'	hello
diva xidoy ndidhit?	who's at the door?
xidinehoyh	come in
Q: Xidiningiyo he'? [3]	did you come in?
A: E, xidiniso (Alta)	yes, I came in.
A: E, xidinso (Hannah)	

xidong gidineteyh	close the door
te diqondhediqoyh	pack up some water
ezre etlanh	I'm cold
soxo tritr dingił'anh	get wood for me
xitthan-gideteyh	put wood in the fire
q'o idighił	now
xiyiq	immediately
nt'ux xiyozr da'	in a little while
nda q'o dingił'anh!	how fast you're doing it!
xisrigidisddhinh	thank you (I'm thankful)
gil'iy	thank you, okay
e	you're welcome
on'e	come
dingit'a	why not, why don't you
divało	I hope
sre' linginh	it's up to you
iga	ouch
inga	ouch
kula	poor thing
ghiluq	poor thing, dear one
dalik	be quiet
telet	keep still
telet ts'in'	behave yourself
nda'	give it to me
gogide, gogide iy [4]	here it is, that's the one
agide, agide iy	there it is; fine
agide dixu	that's o.k., that's satisfactory
srighots'in'	that's fine
ots'in'	that's right
getiy	too much, really
godadz dingił'anh	do it this way
gila	let's go
ixudiniy	hurry up

Q: **Xiday sigiqałchin?**	Where are my boots?
A: **Angiyiq dhidlo iy.**	They're down (on the floor).
Q: **Xiday sigizr?**	Where are my mittens?
A: **Angidiq dhidlo.**	They're up (on the shelf).
Q: **Xidanh singonh?**	Where's my mother?
A: **Dinayix dhido.**	She's at our house.
Q: **Xidan sraqay?**	Where are the kids?
A: **Ngi'egh xidilighusr.**	They're playing outside.
Q: **Xiday sits'igh?**	Where's my hat?
A: **Ngiyiq dhi'onh iy.**	It's down there, in there.
A: **Ngidiq dhi'onh iy.**	It's up there.
A: **Nginiq dhi'onh iy.**	It's up, back there.
A: **Ngi'in dhi'onh iy.**	It's out, over there.
A: **Angodz dhi'onh iy.**	It's across [a short distance].
Q: **Xiday sitr'ey?**	Where's my canoe?
A: **Ngido' dhitonh iy.**	It's downriver.
A: **Ngine' dhitonh iy.**	It's upriver.
A: **Engan dhitonh iy.**	It's across.
A: **Ngitthing dhitonh iy.**	It's downhill, down at the water.
Q: **Ndałts'idz Yeqin xits'in' tuxdił?**	Which way are you all going to the Yukon?
A: **Nginegh ts'i dasroneł.**	We'll go back and around (by the slough).
go deg tehoyh	go this way
e	yes

[4]This is the traditional greeting a Deg Xinag speaker would use to welcome a visitor. If the visitor does not hear this on entering someone's house, the visitor knows he or she is not welcome.

ho	yes
ts'an'at (Alta)	is that right
ts'i'an'at (Hannah)	
xiq'i	looks like it
inagh	no
inagh iy	don't
ots'i'iy	I won't
tth'e	still, not yet
xit'a	maybe
ndałon	maybe
etle'	maybe
esre'	I don't know
esre' ila	I don't know
ixudzan	good-bye
goxeyan' xelanh ts'ixe'at	there'll be another time, see you (not only now)
agide dodo he'?	is that all?
gil dodo iy	that's enough
agide yixudz	that's all

Tape 2, side B, ends here.

[4]Either **gogide** or **gogide iy** means 'here it is, that's the one'. This is the same for **agide** and **agide iy**.

Notin Niłiyił Xixedayh *(Two people talk together)*

Tape 2, side A, begins here.

Hannah and Alta had no script for these conversations. They just talked.

The conversations go by very fast so at first listening to the tape and trying to read along will be difficult. (We prepared these transcriptions by playing back the tape for Alta and Hannah and having them repeat what they said more slowly.) Conversations are included here because it is important to hear the natural flow of the language in its everyday use.

Suggested Activities

Listening and reading After listening a few times and going over the fast parts even more times, you will be able to see where each of the sounds is written and how some words sound connected with each other in rapid speech.

Listening and speaking Underline the parts you want to learn. Listen to them and practice saying them.

Speaking Say the expression to your children, an adult who wants to learn, or a speaker like Hannah or Alta.

Translation Look at the word-for-word English translations under the Deg Xinag and get a feel for how different the word order is in these two languages.

Q'on-giditlqon' *(I'm sewing)*

Alta:	**Go'idał?**[5]	**Q'on-giditlqon'.**
	right now?	*I'm sewing.*
	I'm sewing.	

Hannah:	**He.**	**Ade',**	**q'on-gidiłqon'.** mm
	Yes.	*Well,*	*you're sewing.*
	Oh, you're sewing.		

[5]This is a comment to the person running to the tape recorder, not part of the conversation between Alta and Hannah.

Alta: **Gisr ye'isghonh.**
mittens I made.
I made some mittens.

Hannah: **O. Gan neg angiłtse.**
oh that nice you really made.
Oh, they're nice.

Alta: mhm **Yiggiy.**
that one

Giqałchin che tatltse xit'a
boots too I'll make maybe
Maybe I'll make boots too

Hannah: *yeah*
yeah

Alta: **gisr q'initlnek t'a'.**
mittens I finish when
when I finish the mittens.

Hannah: **Giqałchin che ngiłtse.**
boots well then make
Well, make the boots then.

Diva oxo giqałchin telłtse?
who for boots you're going to make?
Who are you going to make the boots for?

Alta: **Siyozr oxo, siyozr.**
my son for my son
For my son.

Hannah: **O, ngiyozr oxo.**
Oh, your son for
Oh, for your son.

Alta: mhm
mhm

Agidet.
That's all

Gits'i'in Xitodił *(They're going to go hunting)*

Alta: **Chilqay gits'i'in xitodił xi'ne.**
boys hunting they'll go they said
The boys said they're going to go hunting.

Hannah: **Ndałts'idz xitodił?**
which way they're going to go
Which way are they going to go?

Alta: **Ngido'. Ngidegh Srixno'.**
downriver Bonasilla R.
Down to Bonasilla R.

Hannah: **Gits'i'in q'oxitididał.**
hunting they're going to go around
They're going to go hunt around.

Alta: mm **Yiggiy dineg oqo xit'a.**
that moose for maybe
Maybe for moose.

Hannah: **Agide. Dineg oqo xitodił.**
I guess so moose for they'll go
I guess so. They'll go for moose.

Alta: **Yiggiy. Valggats yet,**
that boat in
[They went] in a boat,

enet didhi'on axa.
kicker with
with an outboard.

Hannah: *Oh.*
Oh.

Alta: mhm

Dits'in yił xit'a oqo xixenił'eł.
Goose and maybe for they're looking
And maybe they're looking for geese.

Hannah: **Ndałon.**
maybe

Alta: mm **Nanhdal yił.**
ducks too
Ducks too.

Hannah: mm **Agide srighodz.**
that's good

Alta: mhm

Ttheting Xiyet T'ixet'a Ts'i *(Weather)*

Hannah: **Adong getiy ghiłyotth.**
a while back really it snowed
A while back it really snowed.

Alta: **e**
yeah

Hannah: **Yith getiy ngichogh aghiłyotth.**
snow really big it really snowed
It really snowed, a really big snow.

Alta: **Ndagh q'o ghiłyotth ts'i'at.**
early it snowed at that
It snowed early at that.

Hannah: **Agidet getiy, getiy gits'i dixidiyoq.**
Well really wrong it happened
Well something really went wrong.

Tth'e git'on' ni'ithdagh xingo
still leaves they're coming down while
While the leaves were still coming down

ghiłyotth.
it snowed
it snowed.

Alta: nn **Taghiłyotth xit'a ts'i'at.**
it snowed in the water maybe then
Maybe then it snowed in the water.

Hannah: **Ndałon te denilq'otth.**
maybe water it cools off
Maybe it cools off the water.

Q'ode chenh nitidliyotth.
a while ago again it started to snow
It started to snow again a while ago.

Alta: mhm **Ndada' sre' srixno'**
when I wonder creek
I wonder when the creek

tr'atiditeł.
it'll freeze out (to the mouth)
will freeze out.

Hannah: **Esre'. Ngo tr'al ts'i ezre xelanh.**
I don't know. well not as cold it is
I don't know. It's not as cold.

Gag xitr'athdatl *(We went for berries)*

Alta: **Adong gixitr'athdatl.**[6]
a while ago we went out for some
A while ago we went out for some [berries].

Hannah: **Ndagh gixidhuxdatl?**
where you all went out for some
Where did you go for some?

[6]In this phrase, **gi-** *(unspecified object)* substitutes for the word **gag** *(berries)* because the topic—berries—was understood before the conversation took place.

Alta: **Ane' deloy q'idz.**
upriver mountain on
Upriver on the mountain.

Hannah: **Gixelane'?**
were there any
Were there any?

Alta: **Tr'al ts'in' gixelanh.**
not too many there were
There weren't too many.

Hannah: **Ginoxhan' ndaɬine'?**
you all picked even so
But you picked anyway?

Alta: **E, gitr'inighehan' xiyozr.**
yes we picked a little
Yes, we picked a little.

Hannah: mhm

Alta: **Deloy xitr'athdatl.**
mountain we went up
We went up on the mountain,

Hannah: **He'.**
right.

Alta: mhm **nilighodot dhidlo hiy.**[7]
below each other they are they
the ones below each other.

[7]This is a description of Blueberry Hill above Charlie Wulf's Point.

Hannah: **O.**
Oh.

Alta: **Edod xitr'athdatl.**
lower [hill] we went up
We went up the lower one.

Hannah: **Vantr'ixisneg iy an-, ane' de-**
I don't know it it upriver

anigg deloy.
back there mountain
I don't know those upland mountains.

Alta: mhm **Ened zro ts'intr'edil ts'in'.**
upriver that one we didn't go
We didn't go up river.

Hannah: **He, ndadz xo'in?**
yes, what on account of
On account of what?

Alta: **Ngo "dina itiłghił" xi'ne di**
well on us it's going to get dark they said

xo'in.
on account of
Well, because they said it was going to get dark on us.

Hannah: **Q'idogh tuxdil ts'in'.**
early enough you didn't go out
You didn't go out early enough.

Hannah: mhm

Alta: mhm

Deg Xinag Xitr'inili'an' Ts'in' *(We tried to learn Deg Xinag)*

Hannah: **Sraqay deg xiq'i xinaxidilighusr ts'i**
kids Deg Xinag they speak

xixinili'an'.
they're learning
Kids are learning to speak Deg Xinag.

Ine' tr'ixitohał ts'in' xixinałjit.
but they will speak they're scared
But they're scared to talk

Gits'i dixatoneł dixighun'.
wrong they'll say because of it
because they'll say something wrong.

Alta: mm

Hannah: **Yixudz, yixudz n'a dighist'a' sedig.**
everything I was similar me too
I was that way too.

Sogh dluq xidilighusr ine' yixudz
at me they laugh even then all
They laughed at me, but even so

deg xiq'i xitasngo.
Deg Xinag I talked
I spoke Deg Xinag.

Alta: **Agide sedig.**
that way me too
Same with me.

Hannah: **Gits'i xiyił didisne ine'**
wrong to them I said it even though
Even when I said something wrong

deg xiq'i xitr'odidaghitle' ts'i.
Deg Xinag in I tried hard
I tried hard in Deg Xinag.

Gogide deg xiq'i xinisayh yitots'in'.
that way Deg Xinag I talk since then
That way I've been talking Deg Xinag since then.

Alta: **Agide sedig.**
that way me too
Same with me.

Tołı *(Tea)*

Alta: **Gil sogh xidinehoyh.**
well to me come in
Well come in [to see] me.

Hannah: **Gogide ngogh xidinso.**
right now to you I came in
I've just come in [to see] you.

Alta: mhm **ayiggi dhedo.**
there sit down
Sit down there.

Hannah: **Gila.**
all right

Alta: **Ngo siyił tołı[8] tezrisr t'i.**
well with me tea you'll drink
Well, you'll drink tea with me.

Hannah: **Agide srighots'in'. Chay q'at.**
that's good tea I want
That's good. I'd like some tea.

Alta: **Gogide ngogh niginitlonh**
Go on for you I put things out
Go ahead, I've put things out for you,

[8]The Deg Xinag word **chay** refers to dry tea, before it's brewed. The word **tołı**, on the other hand, refers to brewed tea. However, some use the word **chay** for both dry and brewed tea.

vitozringitl yił.
cup too
a cup too.

Hannah: **Gil'e.**
sure

Alta: mhm **Viye toł tezrisr iy.**
mhm *in it tea you'll drink that which*
That's the one you'll drink tea in.

Hannah: mm **Soxo diye gangingił.**
for me in you poured
You poured it for me.

Alta: **Q'idong.**
Already

Hannah: **Chay gan neg iy.**
tea that nice it
That's nice tea.

Tape 2, side A, ends here.

Xidhoy *(Stories)*

Suggested activities

These activities are for both of the stories in this section.

Listening Listen to the story just to hear the sounds of the language if you are not a speaker.

Listening and Reading Listen to the story and follow along in the book. Some of the words go by pretty fast but just keep trying.

Translation Look at the word-for-word translations to get an idea of the difference in word order between Deg Xinag and English.

Writing Look in the section called Writing Exercises for some ideas.

Speaking Underline phrases and words you want to be able to say and listen to them. Practice them aloud by yourself and with other people.

Notin Idiq'ixolnek Hin*(The two people who found themselves)*

by Hannah Maillelle

This is a long story which Hannah told in a short form for this book.

Each line in the story below is written three times. The first line is the Deg Xinag version recorded by Hannah and written by listening to the tape. The second line is a word-for-word English translation. The third line is based largely on Hannah's own English translation of each group of Deg Xinag words.

An asterisk (*) in the transcription indicates a place on the tape where there was some noise (such as clearing of the throat) which is not transcribed here.

Tape 2, side B, begins here.

Xiyh yix, tr'in'ne, xidhi'onh. *
igloo it's said there was
There was an igloo.

Notin, tr'in'ne, yet
two people it's said inside
Two people were inside.

xathdrit xiyił idiq'ixolnek.
they were lying down then they found themselves
They found themselves there lying down.

Giłiggin * chel* niq'ołonh
one person young man woman
They were a young man and a young woman.

ndadz isre' xivixit'ixet'an.
how don't know they got there
They didn't know how they got there.

Xunhyił xathdrit xiyił idiq'ixolnek.
suddenly they were lying down then they found themselves
All at once they found they were laying down.

Ndadz ine' di xan*tr'ixixunek.
even then they didn't know anything
They didn't know. They didn't know anything.

Xidigał chel, tr'in'ne, diggan'ithdonh.
finally young man it's said he got up
Finally the boy got up.

Xinaxidilighusr ts'in' ts'ixiyił xantr'ixixunek.
they didn't talk even that they didn't know
They didn't know how to talk.

Ixixiłdik anh niq'ołonh che diggan'ithdonh.
then that girl too she got up
And now the woman got up too.

Niłixinli'anh.
they looked at each other
They looked at each other.

Ixixiłdik anh chel, tr'in'ne, tthitadhiyo.
then that boy it's said he went out
And the boy went out.

Tthitadhiyo ts'in' xidon'idiyo.
he went out and he came back in
He went out and he came back in.

Ngi'egh xinił'anh di.
around he looked
And he looked around.

Xivighonigg tso didhi'onh.
behind them cache there was

Xivighonigg tso didhi'onh ts'i
behind them cache there was and
There was a cache behind their house.

viye, tr'in'ne, yixudz xiyaxa ditot'el.
in it it's said all what they were going to use
See, what they were going to use was in there.

Anh niq'ołonh xiyił yaxa digititht'el *yił
that woman then what she was going to use also
And the woman, what she was going to use too

viye dhidlo hiy.
in it there were those
were inside.

Ine' xiyantr'ixunek ndadz isre'
but they didn't know what don't know
But they didn't know

xone dhi'onh hiy tso.
for what was there cache
what the cache was for.

Ndadz isre' vaxa dixet'a hiy.
what don't know what it was for it
They didn't know what it was for.

Ixixiłdik anh niq'ołonh che tthineyo.
then that woman also she went out
And now the woman too, she went out.

Yixudz tso ye dixathdatl.
all cache in they went up
They went in the cache.

Q'ogixitathdlo.
they started carrying things around
They started moving things around.

Ndadz isre' vaxa digili'an tux, tr'in'ne,
how don't know are used among it's said
They didn't know how to use them,

viye dhidlo: oyh yił,
in it they were snowshoes and
the things inside it: snowshoes,

q'o yił yiggiy, gałting' yił.
arrows and that bow and
arrows, and bow.

Ixixiłdi nonxididatl ts'in' * xidon-gixelyo.
and now they came back down things were brought in
Now they came back down. They brought things in.

Ndadz isre' xaxa xinxixuniyh.
what don't know with them they didn't know
They didn't know how they were to be used.

Niłiyił xinaxididlighuzr ts'in' ts'ixiyił.
with each other they didn't talk even that
They never talked with each other.

Xixinayh ts'i xiyił xantr'ixixuneg.
they're talking then they didn't know
They didn't know how to talk.

Ine' niłts'i tr'ixixihayh
but to each other they speak
They spoke to each other,

tux ndadz sre', tr'in'ne,
whenever what don't know it's said

donłixidi'ne.
they say to each other
but they didn't understand each other.

Ine' xivoxo, tr'in'ne, yixudz xelanh.
but for them it's said everything it was
But they seemed to understand everything at last.

*** Xidigał anh* chel**
finally that boy
Finally the boy

oyh* non-gholyo ts'i yixudz,
snowshoes he brought down and everything
brought snowshoes down and everything

iy yiggiy gałting' yił q'o yił, tr'in'ne.
it that bow and arrow and it's said
and that bow and the arrows.

Ndadz sre' yaxa ditot'el.
what don't know what he was going to use
He didn't know all he was going to use.

Yixudz yeg antr'a yixudz vazrine ts'in'
all just like all someone tell him and

xiq'i tr'in'ne.
it looked like it's said
It was just like somebody telling him what to do.

Dit'anh.
he does
He did it.

Ixixiłdik oyh* yeghe'atth ts'i
then snowshoes he put on and
Then he put on snowshoes.

iy q'o yił nginigg tadhiyo.
it arrow too uphill he went
And he went back in the woods with the arrow,

Anigg xizrol che
back up and then
And back there there was

ghinoy q'o'edidał di.
caribou walking around
caribou. They were walking around.

Iy ixixiłdik tux gidiniłdik.
it then among he shot arrow
He shot his arrow amongst them.

Gitux gidiniłdik, tr'in'ne.
among them he shot arrow it's said
He shot his arrow amongst them

giłiq xiyix dełtth'it.
one it fell down
and then one fell down.

Xingo eyiggi niq'ołonh che ngitthing
meanwhile that girl too downhill
While that was happening, that woman down there

che* tso ye didhiyo.
and cache in she went up
went in the cache.

Xiyił nołchidl chux non-gholtonh, tr'in'ne.
then bag big she brought down it's said
She brought a big bag down.

Nołchidl chux non-gholtonh ts'in'
bag big she brought down and
She brought the big sack down and

xidonyełtonh ts'i.
she brought it inside and
she brought it in.

Yiye xenitl'an' di
in it she looked when
She looked inside.

vaxa digitili'el yixudz yiye dhidlo.
what was going to be used all in it was there
all that she was going to use was inside.

Ixudz vigidithne' xingo yixudz
anything no one told her meanwhile anything
Meanwhile nobody told her anything.

yaxa digititl-'an' che idedig.
she started to use them too her too
She too started using them (like him).

Q'on-gatitlqon'.
she started to sew
She started to sew.

Ixixiłdik xiłts'in' xiyił anh chel ni'idiyo ts'in'
then evening then him boy he returned and
In the evening time the boy came back,

dists'in xiye giłts'iyh.
from up there inside it he swung something down
he swung something down from the top of their house.[9]

Iy chenh ethok yił q'ixolnek ngidiq tso yet.
it too pot too they found up cache in
They found a pot too up in the cache.

[9]**Xiyigaghiłts'ok:** He swung something down through the smoke hole. [What he swung down was his pack.]

Ixixiłdik gan titlnek.
then she started cooking
Then she started cooking.

Ixixiłdik edivenhdi tux yixudz dit'anh.
then every morning all she does
Now every morning she did that.

Xingo xiyh yix anuq yigineyax, tr'in'ne,
meanwhile igloo behind things were growing it's said
While back of the house things were growing

yix xiyet anuq.
house inside back
in the house back there.

Ixixiłdik q'idughi tux, tr'in'ne, xivogh xidontr'it'isr.
then once in a while it's said to them someone comes in
Then once in a while somebody comes to them.

Diva sre'! xits'i xiyił tr'ixithag xingo.
who don't know to them then he didn't talk meanwhile
They didn't know who! Meanwhile, he never talks to them.

Xixunik xon'idoyh tr'in'ne.
their news he goes back up it's said
He goes for news of them.

Ixixiłdik che tthantidoyh.
then again he goes out
Then he'll go out again.

Ixixiłdik "anugg yineyax hiy
then back up growing things
"The ones growing back there,

"a gon zro ighuduxnol'an" xiłne, tr'in'ne.
this you shouldn't touch he said it's said
don't touch those," he told them.

* **yixudz dixet'a.**
all it was so
So it was that way.

Ndadz xo'in go didina'iłne yił xinedagi ts'in'.
why he tell us too they didn't think
They never thought, "Why is he telling us this?"

Edivenhdi tux gits'i'in ntidoyh yiggi chel.
every morning hunting he goes that boy
Day after day the boy goes hunting again.

Ixixiłdik anh niq'ołonh che q'on-gidiłqon',
then that woman too sews
And the girl was sewing too

gits'i'in ntidoyh xingo.
hunting goes while
while he'd go hunting.

Ndadz sre' xaxa yinxuniyh hiy.
what didn't know she knew it
She didn't know how she knew how to sew.

Yixudz antr'a ixudz vazrine ts'i xiq'i
all just like all someone tell her and looks like
It was like somebody told her

yixudz dit'anh.
all she does
what to do.

Ixixiyił nił̨q'ixolnek, tr'in'ne.
suddenly they found each other it's said
Suddenly they found each other.

Nił̨q'ixolnek ts'in' nił̨ghoxatidlitth'e'.
they found each other and they started staying together
So they started staying together.

Nił̨ghoxatidlitth'e' ts'i ixixił̨dik
they started staying together and now
They started staying together and now

soxidałts'iyh getiy, tr'in'ne.
they were happy really it's said
they were happy.

Ixixił̨dik yiggi chel che gits'i'in ntithiyo
now that boy again hunting he started to go
He went hunting again

xingo anh niq'ołonh yix xighono dił'anh,
meanwhile that woman house near she worked
while that girl, she worked around the house.

tr'in'ne. Gan-ghołnik ts'ixiyił q'on-gidił̨qon' ts'ixiyił.
it's said she cooked then she sewed then
She was cooking and sewing too.

Ixixiyił, tr'in'ne, vixuyo didlidhiyh.
suddenly it's said to her mind it struck
Suddenly something came to her mind.

Anugg eyiggi niyaxiy
back up that plant
That plant growing in back,

"gan gon sre'" inedhinh.
"what this I wonder" she thought
she was wondering what it was.

Yighu nineyo ts'in' yenitl-'an'.
to it she went and she looked at it
She went to it and started looking at it,

"Ngizrenh etle' ts'i'a," yinedhinh ts'ixiyił,
"it's good I wonder if," she wondered then
wondering if it was good.

tr'in'ne. Ixixiyił, tr'in'ne, chel xidon'idiyo.
it's said suddenly it's said boy he came back inside
All at once, the boy came back in.

Anh chel xidon'idiyo ts'in' yighu neyo.
that boy he came back in and he went to her
He came back in and went up to her.

"Gan adingił'an," yiłne.
what are you doing he said to her
"What are you doing?" he said to her.

"Gon ithe sre' ngizrenh tux," yiłne,
this if I wonder it's good she said to him
"I wonder if it's good," she said to him.

tr'in'ne. Ixiłdik anh chel anh
it's said then that boy that
And now the boy:

"vighuduxnol'an iy dina'izrighene'."
avoid touching it someone told us
"He told us not to touch it."

Ine' yixudz yiq'at anh niq'ołonh.
but everything she wanted that woman
But she wanted it.

Ts'an'a yet
and so from then on
And from then on,

yixudz anh chel dhot gighe'onh,
everything that boy mouth she put something in
she put some in the boy's mouth,

tr'in'ne, iy niłyagh.
it's said, those blueberries.
those blueberries.

Alta: **Iy niłyagh.**
those blueberries
Those blueberries.

Hannah: **Niłyagh lochenh**
blueberries it was
It was blueberries

nginugg yineyax xiyh yix.
back it was growing igloo
growing in back of the igloo

Ixixiłdi yixudz, yidhot gighe'onh ts'in'
then his mouth she put something in and
And now she put something good in his mouth.

gan neg. "Ngizrenh he' iy?" yiłne.
how nice "is it good that" she said to him
"Is it good?" she asked him.

Ixixiłdi yixudz, "gila ngidedig iy," yiłne,
then "here you too it" he said to her
"And now you too," he said to her.

tr'in'ne, ixixiłdi "ngidedig che," yits'i.
it's said. then "you too also," to her
"You too."

Gighehon', tr'in'ne. "Niłyagh, gan neg."
she ate some it's said blueberries how nice
And she ate some too. "Blueberries, how nice."

Ixixiyił, tr'in'ne, xivighu xidontr'et'ots.
then it's said to them someone came in again
All at once, somebody came in again.

Xivighu xidontr'ełtthit, tr'in'ne.
to them someone stormed in it's said
Somebody came storming in.

"Idighiłche inagh yixdighisne'.
"I thought no I told you
"I thought I told you not to.

'Ixonan' yixdighisne' ghile chenh"
'don't eat' I told you earlier
I told you earlier not to eat it,"

xivazrine, tr'in'ne.
someone said to them it's said
he said to them.

"Agide go xits'i dongithit inagh xivazrine tux,
then from now on no someone tells them when
From now on and in the future, when we say no,

yixudz dixititht'al ts'in'.
everything they won't be able to do
they won't be able to do right.

Gits'i xiyan' nixitodhił,"
wrong only they'll only do
They'll always do wrong in the future,"

xiłne, tr'in'ne. Ixixiłdik yixudz,
they say it's said then
he told them.

che q'idong niłghu ditidlitth'en'.
again long time together they've been staying
Already they were staying together.

Xivigisraqay yił, tr'in'ne, ethdlong'.
their children and it's said there were many
They had many kids.

Ts'i yit nixidathdaq.
and there they settled down
They settled down there.

Edixinli'on'.
that's it

Alta: **Yuk.**

Q'idighidhilinh Axa Nixudhidhit Ts'in' *(What happened to the young man)*

by Alta Jerue

Each line of Alta's story appears three times below. The first is written from the tape recording of her telling of the story. The second is a word-for-word translation of her story in English. The third line is a "free" English translation taken from Alta's telling of the story in English, which you can hear on the tape after the Deg Xinag version. (All but approximately the first two pages of the English version is on the tape.) For this reason, the correspondence between the Deg Xinag and the free English versions of the story is not perfectly one-to-one.

Like Hannah's story, Alta's story is told here in a shorter version for this book.

The asterisk (*) again marks some kind of sound which you can hear on the tape but which is not actually part of the story.

Tape 2, middle of side B, continues here.

Q'idighidhilinh tr'in'ne ideyan' dhido.
young man it's said alone he lived
A young man lived alone.

Tthuxdi dhido ił t'e, tr'in'ne, tthuxdi dhido.[10]
alone he lived always it's said alone he lived
He always lived alone.

Xiyh xiyił sanh xiyił ił t'e tthuxdi dhido.
winter then summer then always alone he lived
He lived alone in winter and summer.

Dina itltthag ts'in', tr'in'ne.
people he doesn't see it's said
He didn't ever see any people.

[10] Alta says she should have added **nixudodhił ts'i** *year in and year out* at this point.

Sanh che nonxudidhit, tr'in'ne.
summer again it became it's said
It became summer again.

Gag *ghunonxodidhit xiq'i.
berry it became time it looked like
It became time to get berries.

Xiyił denedhinh, tr'in'ne.
then he thought it's said
Then he thought,

***"Dingit'a ngido' tidhisqay,**
why not downriver I should paddle
"Why not paddle downriver,

getiy * tr'inay axa."
really lonesome with
being lonesome?"

Ts'i tr'in'ne, digitr'ey yigheyo
and it was said his canoe he went
Then he got in his canoe

ts'i ngido' tidhiqanh.
and downriver he paddled
and paddled downriver.

Teq'avon xi'ogh xiyozr, tr'in'ne, dit'anh.
shore near a little it's said he was headed
He was headed near a little shore.

Xiyił ado'* ogh ghiqał ngido'.
then way downriver near he was paddling downriver
He was paddling downriver.

***Ghiqał nedhot xiyozr ghi.**
he was paddling long ways little
He hadn't paddled very far when

nineqanh xiyił, tr'in'ne.
he paddled up then it's said
suddenly he pulled over.

Teq'avon giłtthonh:
shore he saw something
He saw some wood on the shore.

tritr didlang tritr ded, tr'in'ne,
wood spruce wood narrow it's said
A narrow spruce

diq'idiliquyhiy yit.
that was chopped down there
was chopped down there.

"Yit"* tr'in'ne,* "yit" inedhinh, tr'in'ne,
there it's said there he thinks it's said
"Maybe there's something there.

"che diva diggiy denitlquyiy.
I wonder who down chopped it
I wonder who chopped it down.

Dina etle xelanh deg," inedhinh.
person maybe there is here he thought
There must be people around here," he thought.

"Dingit'a vighu niq'idhisqay," inedhinh.
why not by it I should stop paddling he thought
"I'll stop and see."

Ts'i xughu niq'ineqanh.
and by it he stopped paddling
So he stopped his canoe there.

Digitr'ey yił ngidiq, tr'in'ne, ninetonh.
his canoe with up it's said he pulled ashore
He dragged his canoe up onto the beach.

Diggi yithtonh.
up he pulled it up
He pulled it up there.

Go, tr'in'ne, vighu ngidiq xitthitathton' antr'a.
here it's said by it up there was a path just like
By the tree there was a path.

Tthantr'idididił xiq'i.
someone walking on it it looked like
It looked like people walked on it.

Hannah: **Ine.**

Alta: **Ts'i xiłdi ngidiq tadhiyo ngidiq xizroloche.**
and there up he went up really
So up he went there, up the trail.

Tthitathton' ts'i'an anigg tthitathton'.
there was a path and then back up there was a path
It led him back a ways in the bank.

Yixi ixixiłdik* ghihoł.
there just then he was walking
He kept walking.

Anigg xiyozr nineyo
back up a little ways he walked
And when he got so far

xiyił, tr'in'ne, anigg xenitl-'an' nitr'oł.
then it's said up he looked
he looked ahead,

Yix xichux xidhi'onh, tr'in'ne.
house big there was it's said
and he saw a big house over there.

Antr'a tr'alttth'et di
just like kashim
It looked just like a kashim.

q'idixet'adi xudhi'onh.
it looked just like it was
just like that.

Yit xidoy nineyo ts'in'.
there door he went to and
He got to the door.

***Gedhitltth'onh, tr'in'ne.**
he listened it's said
He listened.

Giq'idixidetth'iq, tr'in'ne.
it was quiet it's said
Not a sound.

Yit ndighedhit xingith ine'
there he stood a while but
He stood there a while.

ndadz ine' xidetth'el ts'in'.
anything but he didn't hear
Never heard nothing. Just quiet.

Tl'ux tał neg, * tr'in'ne xidinił cheth.[11]
grass mat nice it's said it was hanging up
But they had a nice, neat looking grass mat hanging over the door.

* **Xidigał, tr'in'ne, yadz yinił nek.**
finally it's said aside he pulled it
He got nerve enough to open the grass mat, push it aside.

Xili'an', tr'in'ne, ngiyix
it was light it's said inside
And it was light in there.

'cause[12] **ngidiq xidinił chedh igide'on'**
up covering the sun was shining
When the sun hits that bear gut they had over it, it's transparent almost and it makes a big light inside when the sun hits it.

xigide'on' ts'i tr'in'ne.
the sun was shining and it's said

Yitots'in' xiditadhiyo, tr'in'ne.
then he started to go in it's said
So he went in,

Nił chen-ginthitonh. Dina qul.
he looked around nobody
and looked around. Nobody there.

---

[11] Alta pointed out that she could have said **xidoy xidinił cheth** at this point: *the mat was hanging in the doorway.*

[12] Alta pointed out later that she could have said **xił di**, rather than *cause*, at this point.

Yitongo ***yixudz,** **tr'in'ne,**
meanwhile *all* *it's said*

yiggiy ***tl'ux tał** **ne'idalnek,** **tr'in'ne,** *all of them.*
that *grass mat* *it was folded back* *it's said* *all of them*
He saw grass mats folded back.

Hannah: **Yixudz** **edinił chen.**
all *around*

Alta: **Edinił chen.**
all around
All around there.

Hannah: **Ine.**

Alta: *And on* **iy** **tał** **tl'ux tał*** **neg** **tux,**
that *mat* *grass mat* *nice* *among*
Among the nice, neatly made grass mats,

tr'in'ne, **anigg** **xił di** **gił ixdi** **tl'ux tał** **tlagg,**
it's said *back* *there* *one place* *grass mat* *bum*
one place he saw a grass mat that wasn't made too good,

tr'in'ne **ne'idalnek,**
it's said *folded back*

ts'id **tlagg** **che** **viq'idz** **detlchetth.**
blanket *no good* *also* *on it* *folded*
with a blanket that didn't look too good folded on it.

Xidoy **xiq'idh** **ts'i** **nineyo** **ts'i.**
door *beside* *to* *he went* *and*
He went by the door

Yit tathdo'. Yit tathdo' xiyił
there he started to sit then
and jumped up on that bench and sat there.

Xiłts'in' xiq'i nixitadhdhit ts'i
evening it looked like it became and
Late that afternoon

gidetth'onh.
he heard something
he heard something.

Longhin xit'ache gidalyayh
many there were really they're singing

niq'ołdałin dhagg tux yan'.
women voice among only
He heard women's voices, nice women's voices.

Yitongo xiviyił che
meanwhile with them also
And in the background he could hear

gitr'idalyayh xitlagg, tr'in'ne.
someone was singing badly it's said
this old rough voice. It was singing.

Hannah: hunh

Alta: ***"Che ndadz divan sre' xiditodił,"**
again how who I wonder will come in
"I wonder who will come in," he thought to himself.

inedhinh. Yit dhido. Ixixiyił, tr'in'ne
he thought there he stayed then it's said
He just sat there. Then

yiggiy niłq'adz vi'elnek iy tl'ux tał.
that one he pushed aside it grass mat
someone opened the grass mat

Niq'ołdalin negiye, tr'in'ne, xidinedatl longhin.
women nice ones it's said they came in many
and nice-looking women came in.

Xiyiłtthonh xiyił yixudz.
they saw him then all
They looked at him.

Dixidadlidaq, tr'in'ne.
they became quiet it's said
But no one said anything.

Yixudz xididlitth'ex xingo nixididatl, tr'in'ne.
all they stayed while they went back it's said
They went over there, each went to their own mats.

Xiviq'iche xiditr'ine'ots niq'ołonh chux xiq'i
behind them someone came in woman big looks like
And after them comes that old lady.

anh, tr'an xiq'i hanh.
that one old woman looked like that one
She's the one had

Angodz xiłdi yiggit tl'ux tał* tlagg
across there is down grass mat bad
that grass mat,

***dinithitl'isrdi xighidlitsenh, tr'in'ne, ghinineyo.**
loosely woven it was made it's said she went by it
that not too good-looking grass mat.

Yit yitots'in' yiggi nathdo.
there from then on there she sat
She went over and sat on her mat.

Q'ixidixidetth'iq, tr'in'ne.
they were very quiet it's said
And no one said anything.

Yiggi niq'ołonh giligginh, tr'in'ne,
that woman one it's said

getiy yits'i xititldhit.
really he found her attractive
He really liked one girl.

"Getiy ngizrenh," yinedhinh, tr'in'ne.
really nice he thought it's said
He thought she was a real nice-looking girl.

Yitots'i xidigaga' yił tr'inixołał, niłyagh.
then their berries too they were holding blueberries
They were holding their berries.

Ts'i tr'in'ne, ngitthegh xiyixughenek.
and it's said down they reached
Then those girls reached behind their mats and

Tth'ok k'idz tux, tr'in'ne, tr'ixinelo,
bowl little among [themselves] it's said they took out
took out cute little wooden bowls

tth'ok k'idz neg tux,
bowl little nice among

tritr tth'ok k'idz neg tux.
wooden bowl nice little among

Yiggi gitughin che an
and some of them
And some of them took out

viq'anhtig * k'idz tux yił tr'ixinelo ts'i.
masher little among with they took out and
cute little mashers

Xiyaxa nigixenitltl'isr, tr'in'ne.[13]
with it they started to smash it's said
and they started to mash the berries.

Yitots'i *xiyits'i noxiyineqonh.
after that to him they took it
They each took them over

Xiyitl'oyiqoyh, gag.
they gave it to him berries
and each one of them gave him a dish.

Yitadhon' yitots'in'.
he started to eat then

[13]Alta said later she should have added the following at this point:

Gighizr gha' che xiyitux ne'ingił.
white fish oil grease into them they poured
They poured whitefish grease into them.

Ine' ixixiyił, tr'in'ne, yiggi niq'ołonh
but all at once it's said that woman
Suddenly

yit niq'ołonh chux tlagg
there woman big no good
the old lady took out

tth'ok tlagg xiq'iy *tr'inetonh
bowl bad seemed she took out
an old rough looking bowl

dighonegh xits'in'.
from behind her from there
from behind her

Niłyagh yiyeghengił ts'i ixixiłdik
blueberries in it she poured and then
and poured blueberries in it.

giye tr'ine'atth.
something she took off of her feet
She took off her boot. She used her heel.

Hannah: **Yiq.**

Alta: **Diqałtitl axa niyinitltl'isr.**
her heel with she smashed
She used her heel to mash the berries.

Niyinitltl'isr, yixudz niyinitltl'isr ts'in', tr'in'ne.
she smashed everything she smashed and it's said
And then after she mashed the berries with her heel,

Yit xitl'ogh giyen-ghit'atth ts'i
after that she put it back on and
she put her boot back on.

engan yighu nineyo ts'i
across to him she went and
She went over and

yitl'o yigheqonh.
to him she gave him it
gave it to him.

Yigho nin yilchet.
from her well he took it
He took it from her.

"E tidhasel ts'i gidet," inedhinh yitongo.
I'm not going to eat it never he thought meanwhile
but he was thinking to himself, "I'm not going to eat it."

Q'idighinegh ixixildik niyineqonh.
behind him then he put it
He put them by him.

Deg dixet'a ts'i, tr'in'ne yit tthidighedhit, tr'in'ne.
as time went by it's said there he spent the night it's said
Then

Xivighu tthidighedhit.
with them he spent the night
he spent the night right there.

Vinixilyeg tr'axinedaq, tr'in'ne.
early in the morning they woke up it's said
The next day they got up. He heard them talking

Yixudz dixet'a. Q'idong xiq'i dixet'a.
all it was the same yesterday it seemed it was the same
saying it's a nice day again today. Just like yesterday.

Getiy xezrenh ngi'egh. Xigide'onh ts'in'.
really it was nice out sun was shining
It's clear, sunny.

Yoyan' xelanh ts'ixiyił.
clear sky it was even

Ixixiyił, tr'in'ne, dixin'ne,
then it's said they said

"che nginigg nasrididił.
well back up we're going to go
"We're going again for blueberries.

Gixontr'etididał " xixin'ne, tr'in'ne.
we'll go they said it's said
We're going again."

Yitots'i xitathdatl.
then they left

Xiyił dititht'an', yiggi niq'ołonh
with them he went that woman
He was walking with this girl,

yits'i xitidlidhin' yił q'utithiyo, tr'in'ne
he found attractive with her he started to go around it's said
going with the girl that he liked.

Nginigg yit gag xelanhdi nixinedatl.
back up there berries where they were they went
And they went back

Yigixinehayh, tr'in'ne yixudz dran,
they all picked it's said all day
and they start picking berries again

tr'in'ne. Yiggi yigixinehayh.
it's said there they picked

Xingo, engithi nigitidhi'on' ts'i, tr'in'ne.
meanwhile, sun was setting and it's said
until late afternoon.

Idałuxti nixinedatl.
together they went back
Then they all came together, one place.

Ts'iyit nixididliyo xiyił, tr'in'ne.
there they were standing then it's said
And standing there

Niq'ołdalin, tr'in'ne,
women it's said
and pretty soon, one by one,

an gag nonxidelanh
them berries they became changed into
those girls just start turning into blueberries

ts'in' dighu xidinelo.
and up they were hanging up
and hanging up on bushes.

And that **chel anh**
boy him
And when it came to him,

niłyagh ded ngith athdlat, tr'in'ne.
blueberry narrow long he became it's said
he turned into a long blueberry and he hung on a bush.

Yitots'in' yiggi niq'ołonh yiyił
from then on that woman with her
And right beside him the girl

q'u'edo anh che
he was going around her
he liked

niłyagh gimidh ngilanh ts'in'
blueberry round she was and
turned into a round blueberry and

yit q'o yiq'idh dighu dinelningh.
right there by him up she hung
hung beside him.

And that **xivitse ghiluq anh**
their grandmother poor her
And the old lady

gezrmay chux athdlat.
bearberry[14] *big she became*
turned into a **gezrmay**, a big round black berry, those that people don't eat on the mountain. She turned into that.

[14]Properly speaking, **gezrmay** refers to a kind of bird, the northern shrike. The shrike's berries, **gezrmay gaga'**, are bearberries.

Ts'i endhighił.
and she rolled over
And she just rolled in the bushes.

Hannah: **Gila.**

Alta: **Agide edixinli'on'.**
that's it it's ended
And that was the end.

Yuk.
that's all

Xinag Xidiniłdik Ts'i Xiq'a Gitr'oxili'an' *(They try to write Deg Xinag)*

Spelling drills for individual sounds

1. Start at the beginning of tape 1, side B. As you listen to each word, try to write the missing letter or letters in the list below. After you write each letter, check in the book to see if you were right. Some people like to keep the book open covering the answers with a piece of heavy paper. They slide the cover down to check each word they have written.

yi__ ał
ghi__ ał
dili__ aq
vi__ agg
gi__ an'
__ an'
__ ił
__ iłiyił
yige__ esr
si__ esrin
tath__ aq
gag __ oq
__ ingił
__ ingił
__ ał
__ ał
di__ ik
di__ ik
gididli__ iq
silo__ iq
tr'o__ ix
tr'i__ ix
__ ith
__ ith
vi__

vi__
xiq'i da__ tonh
xiq'i da__ tonh
__ inox deddh
__ inox ded
__ rixno'
__ inox gag
__ adinh
__ aqay
__ axil
sile__
sigiłe__
__ a__
__ a__
__ i__ izr
vi__ izr
tux__ aq
dili__ aq
vidha__
vidha__
di__ etth
yanxidi__ eyh
yix xi__ idz
yix xi__ idz
gił__ ats
nił__ adz
de__ onh
ngi__ odz
__ ił
gidegh ni__ ił
__ eledz
gito__ eł
__ yh
__ iy
__ ot
__ o

ay'ot __ in
__ in

2. For the next drill, start at the beginning of tape 1, side A. As you listen to each word, try to write the missing letter or letters.

si'__ t
ch__ nh
g__ ch'__ q
d__ n__
t__ ddh__ ng
g__ dh__ th
d__ dl__ ng
dr__ nh
dx__ x
g__ g
gg__ x
sigh__ '
g__ n__ h__
n__ łj__ t
d__ k__ tth
__ m__ k'__ o

Keeping track of errors

List the writing mistakes you make on a chart like the one below:

I wrote:	*correct letter is:*
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

If you find you are making the same mistake over and over, go back to that letter in the alphabet section and read about how the sound is made. Listen to the examples again.

How to make your own drills

The first drill has words missing only one sound. All the missing sounds are consonants. The second drill has words missing one or more sounds and all the missing sounds are vowels. Make your own drills by copying words out of the book but leaving out one or more letters from each word. Later, listen to that section on the tape and try to fill in the missing letters.

Whole word drills

When you are doing pretty well at filling in single letters, try to go on to whole words. Listen to the tape, write one word, then check to see if you are right. Give yourself credit for each letter you get right. After all, you're just starting to learn and you're doing it by yourself!

Word group drills

When you are comfortable with single words, go on to groups of words. Listen to the conversations and stories and try to write them down. This is very

hard so don't get discouraged. To write them in this book, Sharon and Alice went over the conversations and stories with Hannah and Alta word by word while listening to the tape.

For speakers of Deg Xinag

If you speak or think in Deg Xinag, try to write on your own. You might try writing a letter to another speaker, or keeping a diary for yourself. You might write down some stories or songs that you know. This will be hard because you won't have anyone to help you decide which letters to use, or where the words start and stop. But don't worry about being perfect yet because all of us are just starting.

Deg Xinag Vitux Xodal *(Books in Deg Xinag)*

For further reading in Deg Xinag or about the Deg Xit'an, you might want to look at some of these books.

Publications of the Alaska Native Language Center

Information about these books is available from the Alaska Native Language Center, Box 900111, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99775-0120:

Chapman, John W. 1981. *Athabaskan Stories from Anvik*. 186 pages. [Sixteen stories in Deg Xinag, retranscribed and edited by James Kari, were originally published in 1914. The stories have word-for-word translations followed by a free English translation.]

Deacon, Belle. 1987. *Engithidong Xigixudhoy: Their Stories of Long Ago*. 127 pages. [These are eight stories in Deg Xinag with free English translations on the facing page. Five of the stories are followed by Belle's English version of the story.]

Kari, James. 1978. *Ingalik Noun Dictionary*.

Kari, James. 1976, revised 1980. *Deg Xinag. Anvik-Shageluk-Holy Cross Literacy Exercises*. 14 pp. With tape recorded by Susan Dutchman and Grace John.

No author. 1983. *Dlen Xudhoy: Mouse Story*. 24 pages. [This story was prepared for school children with one sentence in Deg Xinag, a free English translation, and one picture on each page.][15]

Publications of the Iditarod Area School District

Many of the books below were prepared especially for school children.

Many of these books do not provide information about author or date.

Information about these books is available from the Iditarod Area School District, McGrath, Alaska.

[15]This is a different story from Dlen Xidhoy, below.

Alaska Native Language Center. 1983. *Deg Hit'an Alphabet: A book for learning the letters and sounds of the Deg Hit'an language*. 39 pages.

Alaska Native Language Center. 1983. *Gguz K'idz Xiday Iy: Where is the Little Rabbit*. pages. [For children. Adapted and translated from Tanacross into Deg Xinag by Grace John, Alta Jerue and Genevieve Newman.]

Jerue, Alta. 1987. *Dlen Xidhoy: Mouse Story*. 14 pages. [For children.][16]

Jerue, Alta. 1987. *Tsodlig Didag Q'at Nithitrax: The Tree Squirrel Cried for His Parka*. [For children.] 16 pages.

Jerue, Alta and Donna MacAlpine. *Gileg*. 15 pages. [15 songs in Deg Xinag for children, to be sung to tunes such as Farmer's in the Dell.]

John, Grace. 1983. *Xudhoyh: Stories by Grace John of Shageluk*. 27 pages. [Fourteen stories about her life are given first in Deg Xinag, then in English. Each page is illustrated.]

MacAlpine, Donna. *Anvik Resource Book*.

MacAlpine, Donna and Alta Jerue. 1984. *Anvik: People and Places. Gitr'ingithchagg: Dinaqay Xineg*. 43 pages.

National Bilingual Materials Development Center. 1984. *How Much? How many?* 40 pages. [For children.]

National Bilingual Materials Development Center. 1984. *Siyix*. 25 pages. [For children.]

Paul, John. 1985. *Ggagg Tlagg: Porcupine*. 13 pages. [For children.]

Paul, John. 1985. *Gitsighiy: Marten*. 7 pages. [For children.]

Paul, John. 1987. *Niltiy: Crane*. 14 pages. [For children.]

Paul, John. 1985. *Tsodlig: Squirrel*. 6 pages. [For children.]

No author. *Chel Ndadz Dit'anh*.

Originally written in Koyukon, the following books were translated into Deg Xinag by Alta Jerue and Chad Thompson:

Attla, Marjorie. 1985. *Xulegg. (Springtime.)* 12 pages. [For children.]

[16]This is a different story from Dlen Xudhoy, above.

Attla, Marjorie. 1985. *Gigginghdi. (Smokehouse.)* 9 pages. [For children.]

Attla, Marjorie. 1985. *Xiyts'in'. (Falltime.)* 9 pages. [For children.]

Anthropology

The research for the following three books was done in Anvik. These books contain many words in Deg Xinag, some of which may not be spelled correctly. However, most of the Deg Xinag words in these books can also be found in the 1978 noun dictionary prepared by Jim Kari.

These books are no longer for sale but can be borrowed from libraries such as that of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Osgood, Cornelius. 1940. *Ingalik Material Culture*. London: Oxford University Press.

Osgood, Cornelius. 1958. *Ingalik Social Culture*. New Haven, Conn.: Department of Anthropology, Yale University.

Osgood, Cornelius. 1959. *Ingalik Mental Culture*. New Haven, Conn.: Department of Anthropology, Yale University.

History

VanStone, James. 1978. *E.W. Nelson's Notes on the Indians of the Yukon and Innoko Rivers, Alaska*. Chicago: Field Museum of Natural History.

VanStone, James. 1979. *Historic Ingalik Settlements along the Yukon, Innoko, and Anvik Rivers*. Chicago: Field Museum of Natural History.

VanStone, James. 1979. *Ingalik Contact Ecology: An Ethnohistory of the Lower-Middle Yukon, 1790–1935*. Chicago: Field Museum of Natural History.